GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:573
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
LAUNCHING OF HEALTH SATELLITE
CHADA SURESH REDDY;MALYALA RAJAIAH

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is considering launching a health satellite to enhance telemedicine facilities and help the country`s health care sector;

(b) if so, whether India has got the expertise in this field;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to obtain this technology from some country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 573 REGARDING `LAUNCHING OF HEALTH SATELLITE` BY SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA AND SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY FOR ANSWER ON APRIL 30, 2003

(a) DOS/ISRO have undertaken Technology Demonstration of telemedicine by providing satellite connectivity. Studies have been initiated to assess the experience gained and build-up a data base. Configuring a unique health satellite depends on the assessment of database over a longer period of time.

(b) Yes, Sir. Requisite technical resources are available.

(c) There are four broad areas of expertise needed for conducting telemedicine activity :

- Specification for monitoring the information related to patient`s health problems, like the diagnostic test reports, images, etc. These are done by specialist doctors, who have good understanding of analyzing this information and providing necessary advice and treatment.

- The information of the patient including the different images of X-ray, ECG, pathological slides, etc. will be processed by the telemedicine computer hardware and software, both at the patient-end and specialist-end hospital. These are commercially available in the country.

- This information from the computer of the patient-end hospital is transmitted through VSAT system by up-linking to INSAT satellite, which will be received by this similar VSAT system at the specialty- end hospital. Again this capability exists within the country and they are commercially available in the country.

- Interpretation of the video images like X-ray, CT, MRI, ECG, etc received at the specialty hospitals will be carried out by specialists doctors, who have demonstrated this expertise in the areas of cardiology, radiology, pathology, ophthalmology, etc.

In all, India has the end-to-end expertise in the area of telemedicine.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.